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# Report: Tafoya sleuth got warning from CIA

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The chief investigator in the Eugene Tafoya case says the CIA threatened him with prosecution if he testified about his conversations with agency employees, according to reports obtained Wednesday.

Fort Collins Police Detective Ray Martinez also said that after the warning, he began receiving anonymous phone calls telling him to "back off" from his investigation.

Martinez said the threats of prosecution came during a meeting in Washington July 7 with CIA lawyers Jerry Johnson and Barbara Pollack. They appeared to be disturbed about his investigation, he said, and asked if his bosses knew what he was doing. They warned that if he testified in court about parts of their conversation, he could be prosecuted.

When he arrived back in Fort Collins that evening, Martinez said he began receiving a series of threatening phone calls, even though his number is unlisted. A man's voice simply said: "You've gone too far. It's time to back off."

In police reports obtained by the Rocky Mountain News, Martinez claims that the FBI withheld information in the case pertaining to Tafoya's former employer, ex-CIA operative Edwin P. Wilson.

Martinez also says that while investigating the Tafoya case, he was told by a lawyer that former Green Berets were recruited to work for Wilson in Libya and that the recruiting was approved by the State Department. Some of the soldiers ended up training terrorists for Libyan strongman Col. Moammar Khadafy.

Tafoya is a former Green Beret.

The CIA Wednesday didn't respond to News inquiries about the allegations. But

Denver's FBI head, Jack Egnor, said that only "national security" items were withheld from Martinez. He said Martinez's comments were derogatory and that Martinez had launched a "one-man crusade. He's like a knight in shining armor. This is his chance in the light."

Martinez's reports show that the FBI waited three to four months before telling him that it suspected Tafoya of firebombing a car in Canada belonging to a reputed enemy of Wilson's. Martinez also contends the bureau waited months before processing leads about international connections in the case.

Several of those international connections, however, do surface in the files. For instance, the records suggest Tafoya may have had much more in mind when he returned to the United States from Libya than merely "roughing up" Libyan dissident Faisal Zagallai in Fort Collins. Tafoya was charged with attempted first degree murder but was convicted of third-degree assault last week in the Oct. 14, 1980, shooting of Zagallai.

Found in an April 22 search of Tafoya's home in Truth or Consequences, N.M., were names of scores of people and companies associated with Wilson. A few of those names were people who allegedly were enemies of either Wilson's or Khadafy's, and authorities have said they believe some of them may have been targets for revenge.

One of the many notes found in the search, for instance, contains an address of a Washington residence believed to be the home of Omar Yahi, described in the reports as former chief of intelligence for Libya. Yahi, who defected to the United States, has "bodyguards, drives Caddy may-be armor-plated," according to the note.

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